

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

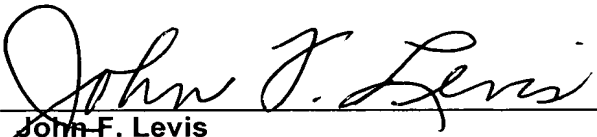
Applicants hereby affirm the provisional election of Group I, claims 1-16, for prosecution in this application. Accordingly, claims 17-19 are herein cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. These may be separately pursued in a divisional application.

The remaining pending claims 1-13 and 15-16 are also herein cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Office indicated that claim 14 was allowable over the art of record. Thus, applicants will pursue claim 14 herein towards allowance and a patent grant, and continue to prosecute the subject matter of claims 1-13 and 15-16 in a separate continuation application.

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for alleged non-enablement. Claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for alleged anticipation in view of Yusoff et al. Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Mebatsion (WO 02/36617) in view of Yusoff et al. and Peeters (WO 99/66045 and U.S. 6,719,979). Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Mebatsion in view of Yusoff et al., further in view of van Wiltenburg (U.S. 5,149,530). Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Yusoff, et al., further in view of Mebatsion.

The foregoing rejections are all rendered moot by the cancellation of the corresponding claims herein.

The application is believed to be in proper condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited. Should Examiner McGaw feel that any other point requires consideration, then he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned.



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